Proposal for establishment of poor houses

*380. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's cons ideration for establishing poor houses for the indigent in the metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, by when such poor houses will be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) While there is no such proposal under consideration a number of State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations have set up institutions for the detention, treatment, training and rehabilitation of beggars. In addition, Homes for the aged have also been established in various States/Union Territories the maintenance of aged persons.

Safety measures in coal mines

@3124. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fatality rate in the coal mines in the country is on the increase;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken to check the fatality rate; and

(d) what are the new safety measures being adopted in different coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) No Sir. The fatality rate per thousand persons employed in the coal mines in the country is not on the increase as evident from the figures for the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad and his officers inspect the mines periodically in order to enforce the statutory provisions in respect of mines safety and take appropriate action as provided in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and the regulations framed thereunder against the persons held responsible for the accidents and for violating the provisions of the Act, the rules and the regulations.

The Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines which is a tripartite body under the Chairmanship of the Union Energy Minister regularly monitors the safety situation in coal mines and advises on the long/short term measures necessary to reduce hazards in coal mining operations. On the basis of the recommendations of this Committee, coal companies have been directed to adopt, *inter-alia*, the following measures:—

(i) re-introduction of Coal Cutting Machines and elimination of solid blasting as far as possible, (ii) staggering of shifts of loaders and preparation of 1½ times the number of faces required by the loaders to avoid the risk involved in the unnecessary rush of workers to collect coal from freshly exposed faces, (iii) creation of multiskilled crew, (iv) introduction of and adherence to support plants in underground mines, (v) improvement of travelling roadways, (vi) fitting of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM), specially the Dumpers, with Audio-Visual Alarms for safe reversal of vehicles.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2366 transferred from the 7 August, 1989.